



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 511

February Session, 2016

Senate Bill No. 340

Senate, April 6, 2016

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. CASSANO, S. of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT EXTENDING THE TERMS OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 1-205 of the 2016 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) There shall be established, within the Office of Governmental
5 Accountability established under section 1-300, a Freedom of
6 Information Commission consisting of nine members. (1) Five of such
7 members shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and
8 consent of either house of the General Assembly. Such members shall
9 serve for terms of four years from July first of the year of their
10 appointment, except that of the members appointed prior to and
11 serving on July 1, 1977, one shall serve for a period of six years from
12 July 1, 1975, one shall serve for a period of four years from July 1, 1975,
13 and one shall serve for a period of six years from July 1, 1977. Of the

14 two new members first appointed by the Governor after July 1, 1977,
15 one shall serve from the date of such appointment until June 30, 1980,
16 and one shall serve from the date of such appointment until June 30,
17 1982. (2) On and after July 1, 2011, four members of the commission
18 shall be appointed as follows: One by the president pro tempore of the
19 Senate, one by the minority leader of the Senate, one by the speaker of
20 the House of Representatives and one by the minority leader of the
21 House of Representatives. Such members, including, but not limited
22 to, members serving on the effective date of this section, shall serve for
23 terms of [two] four years from July first of the year of their
24 appointment. (3) No more than five members of the commission shall
25 be members of the same political party. Any vacancy in the
26 membership of the commission shall be filled by the appointing
27 authority for the unexpired portion of the term.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	1-205(a)
-----------	---------------------	----------

GAE *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which extends the terms of the legislatively appointed members of the Freedom of Information Commission from two years to four years, has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 340*****AN ACT EXTENDING THE TERMS OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill extends, from two to four years, the terms of legislative appointees to the nine-member Freedom of Information Commission. The extension applies to current and future members.

By law, the Senate president, House speaker, Senate minority leader, and House minority leader each appoints one member and the governor appoints five members. Gubernatorial appointees serve four-year terms. No more than five members may belong to the same political party. The commission reviews complaints of Freedom of Information Act violations and ensures that the public has access to government records and notice of public meetings.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 0 (03/18/2016)